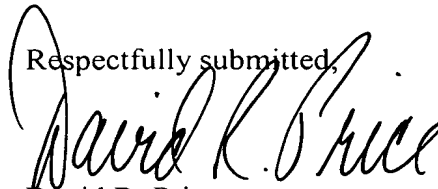


**Remarks**

This preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from the claims, to cancel claim 7, to conform to U.S. practice, and to add new claims 9 – 19, each of which corresponds to one of the original dependent claims. Applicant respectfully requests entry of this amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee.

If a conference call would be useful in resolving issues arising from the filing of this communication, please contact the undersigned at the below-noted number.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Price". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

David R. Price  
Reg. No. 31,557

Docket No. 013344-9045-00

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